

**August 15, 2002**

**CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER'S INFORMATION LETTER**

**2002 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH INFORMATION MANAGERS  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND THE 74<sup>TH</sup> AMERICAN HEALTH INFORMATION  
MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONVENTION**

1. The annual Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Health Information Managers (HIM) Conference is September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002, at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel in San Francisco, CA. This conference is held in conjunction with the 74<sup>th</sup> American Health Information Management Association National Convention (AHIMA) National Convention and Exhibit, September 21<sup>st</sup> through September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2002, at the Moscone Convention Center. It is being coordinated with the Employee Education System and has been approved by Leo Mackay, Ph.D., Deputy Secretary.
2. The VA Computerized Patient Record System (CPRS) exhibit in the convention center during the AHIMA conference provides an opportunity for VA HIM and other health information management professionals to review recent Veterans Health Administration (VHA) innovations. The VA HIM Conference includes sessions on VA Patient Safety Initiatives, CPRS advances, and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) implementation within VA.
3. HIM play a vital role in the continued success of VA and are the key to the development of a CPRS that is a basis of patient care, patient safety, confidentiality, security, compliance, data quality, education, research, performance improvement, and organizational decision-making while ensuring that VHA meets all legal and regulatory requirements. The resourceful use of data and information is a corporate asset. HIM direct sections of the organization responsible for capturing, validating, interpreting, analyzing, and reporting patient information in VHA's databases.
4. Attendance at both the VA HIM Conference and the AHIMA National Convention and Exhibit enables HIM to learn more about current information management activities, including HIPAA, compliance, and Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations requirements, as well as to attend sessions covering a wide variety of health care administrative and management issues. **Facilities are responsible for tuition, travel expenses, and per diem.** Lodging is available at the Sir Francis Drake Hotel for VA attendees.
5. Exposing facility staff to new technologies and ideas promotes professional and program development to better meet our veterans' needs. Attendance of facility HIM at this conference is encouraged. Questions are referred to Gail Graham, Director, Information Assurance, Business Office, VHA Central Office at 202-273-9220.

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6. Registration is required by August 28, 2002. Information regarding the registration form, travel instructions, and agenda can be found at [http://vaww.va.gov/health/him/Table\\_Content.htm](http://vaww.va.gov/health/him/Table_Content.htm)

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